

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method for pressure-conditioning material for food and/or semi-luxury consumables, wherein said material is introduced through an entrance into a hyperbarically pressurized conditioning chamber, where it is treated with a conditioning agent, and extracted again from said conditioning chamber at an exit, wherein the material is conveyed continuously from said entrance to said exit in a conditioning chamber inclined obliquely upwards, by means of a mixing conveyor.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said mixing conveyor is a conveying screw.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the longest dwelling time of the material in the chamber is in the range of a few minutes.
4. The method as set forth in claim 3, with a dwelling time in the range of about half a minute to about twelve minutes.
5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hyperbaric pressure is in the range of about 1 bar to about 11 bars.
6. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hyperbaric pressure is in the range of about 1 bar to about 1.5 bars.
7. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hyperbaric pressure is in the range of about 1.5 bar to about 4 bars.
8. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the hyperbaric pressure is in the range of above about 4 bars.
9. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the material is a comminuted tobacco material.

10. The method as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein said comminuted tobacco material is a tobacco stem material.
11. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the material is given a moistness of about 30% at most during conditioning.
12. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the material is given a moistness of about 18% to about 30% during conditioning.
13. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the temperature of the material in the conditioning chamber is above 100°C.
14. The method as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein the temperature of the material in the conditioning chamber is between 120°C and 190°C.
15. The method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the material is treated with or additionally with casing material.
16. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the material is a granular, expandable cereal or leguminous material.
17. A device for pressure-conditioning material for food and/or semi-luxury consumables, comprising: a hyperbarically pressurized conditioning chamber, into which the material is introduced through an entrance; supply nozzles for treating the material with a conditioning agent; and an exit for extracting the material from said conditioning chamber, wherein the conditioning chamber is arranged obliquely inclined upwards and comprises a mixing conveyor by means of which the material is conveyed continuously from said entrance to said exit.

18. The device as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein said food and/or semi-luxury consumables are comminuted tobacco material.
19. The device as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein said comminuted tobacco material is tobacco stem material.
20. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein said mixing conveyor comprises a conveying screw.
21. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the entrance and the exit are configured as pressure differential proof cellular wheel sluices and the conditioning chamber is configured as a pressure proof chamber.
22. The device as set forth in claim 21, wherein said cellular wheel sluices and the chamber are pressure proof up to a pressure burden of at least 11 bars.
23. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the inclination of the conditioning chamber is variable.
24. The device as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein the inclination of the conditioning chamber is variable in the range >0° to 45°.
25. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein said conveying screw exhibits a progressive pitch.
26. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein speed of the conveying screw is variable.
27. The device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the flanks of the conveying screw comprise cavities through which the material can fall back.

28. A tobacco material for use in smoking products, produced using the method of claim

1, wherein it comprises one or more of the following materials:

- tobacco stem;
- reconstituted tobacco;
- winnowings;
- tobacco leaf or lamina tobacco;
- scrabs or tobacco threshing waste;

wherein the materials are provided whole, roughly comminuted or cut to an application size.

29. The tobacco material as set forth in the preceding claim, wherein said reconstituted tobacco is tobacco film and/or extruded tobacco.

30. The tobacco material as set forth in claim 28, wherein said scrabs or tobacco threshing waste are up to a few cm<sup>2</sup> in size.

31. The tobacco material as set forth in claim 28, wherein said tobacco material comprises said materials in the following proportions:

- tobacco stem at 45% at most;
- lamina tobacco at 90% at most;
- reconstituted tobacco at 40% at most.

32. The tobacco material as set forth in claim 31, wherein said tobacco material comprises tobacco stem at 25% at most, specifically at 20% at most.

33. The tobacco material as set forth in claim 31, wherein said tobacco material comprises lamina tobacco at 50% at most, specifically at 30% at most.

34. The tobacco material as set forth in claim 31, wherein said tobacco material comprises reconstituted tobacco at 20% at most.

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35. A smoking product, wherein it at least partially comprises tobacco material or combinations of tobacco material as set forth in claim 28.
36. The smoking product as set forth in claim 35, wherein it is formed as a cigarette, cigarillo or as a rolling product for self-manufacture.